



Illinois Health Information Exchange

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NEWS ALERT

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ILLINOIS HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE OFFERS FIRST SERVICE TO FACILITATE BETTER PATIENT CARE

CHICAGO - The Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE) today announced the launch of the [ILHIE Direct Secure Messaging Solution](#). ILHIE Direct, which will assist licensed Illinois health care providers in reaching Stage 1 Meaningful Use of electronic health records (EHR), is available at no cost through 2012.

Physicians who subscribe to ILHIE Direct will be closer to achieving the Stage 1 Meaningful Use objectives and obtaining EHR incentive payments of up to \$44,000 from Medicare or \$63,750 from Medicaid. Secure messaging allows health care providers to exchange important patient information securely in compliance with The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. The electronic exchange of patient information between providers reduces errors and duplicative procedures and promotes better care for patients, particularly those with multiple and chronic conditions.

ILHIE Direct enables health information to be exchanged from one provider to another with a Direct address, which is a special e-mail address. It is simple, quick and available at no cost to Illinois providers through 2012. It allows for the exchange of information such as notes, continuity of care documents, referrals, and summary of care records that lead to more efficient coordination of care and improved patient health outcomes.

According to Laura Zaremba, Director of the Office of Health Information Technology; "Thousands of licensed Illinois providers are enthusiastically participating in the EHR incentive programs offered by Medicare and Medicaid, and ILHIE Direct was developed specifically to help those who need a secure exchange solution to qualify for the financial incentives. We are also offering ILHIE Direct to all licensed Illinois health care providers, not just those registered

for the incentive programs, to promote improved care coordination. This is the first of many services that will be available through the ILHIE to support better patient care” Zaremba continued.

The ILHIE was created by state statute in 2010 to encourage the adoption of health information technology to improve the safety and quality of health care. The development of the ILHIE is being funded through a federal grant program established to allow states to assist their health care providers and hospitals with the exchange of electronic health records.

Licensed Illinois providers who are interested in adopting the ILHIE Direct Messaging Solution at no cost should visit www.ILHIEdirect.net. Provider questions can be directed to Cory Verblen at 312-793-0430 or via email to cory.verblen@illinois.gov.

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***About the Illinois Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT)
and the Illinois Health Information Exchange (ILHIE)***

The Illinois Office of Health Information Technology is working with The Illinois Health Information Exchange Authority to promote the development of health information technology, increase the adoption and meaningful use of electronic health records, assure the privacy and security of electronic health information, and direct the implementation of the statewide health information exchange. The main goals of this exciting technology are to improve the quality of health for all Americans while reducing the cost of health care delivery. Illinois is committed to making these important goals a reality.